

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

CHAMBERS OF
ROBERT W. PRATT
CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTHOUSE
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MEMORANDUM

FROM: Chief Judge Robert Pratt

DATE: October 19, 2007

RE: Jury Service Scams

In recent days, U.S. District Court offices have heard from Iowans that they are being targeted by phone calls which threaten prosecution for failing to comply with jury service in federal or state courts. We join the Office of the Iowa Attorney General in seeking to warn you about bogus phone calls relating to jury service.

Fraudulent callers will use the threat of the imposition of a fine or imprisonment for failing to appear for jury service. The caller will ultimately attempt to acquire personally identifiable information or confirm portions of confidential data, potentially leading to identify theft and fraud.

It is important to note that federal courts do not require the provision of sensitive information via a telephone call. Primary contact between federal courts and prospective jurors will be accomplished through U.S. Mail. Telephone contact by legitimate court officials will not include requests for social security numbers, credit card numbers or any other sensitive information.

Jury duty is a vital civic responsibility and should be taken seriously by all citizens. However, it is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. The federal judiciary takes offenses such as these very seriously.

Persons receiving such a phone call should not provide the information requested and notify the Jury Administrator for the U.S. District Court for Southern Iowa at (515) 323-3872.